

Application No. 10/786,507
Filed: February 25, 2004
TC Art Unit: 3726
Confirmation No.: 4009

THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 7-11, as follows:

The present invention relates to making composite material parts from fiber blanks made from one or more porous fibrous structures. ~~One particular field of application of the invention lies in making fiber blanks for manufacturing composite material parts,~~ in particular thermostructural composite material parts.

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, line 32, to page 5, line 6, as follows:

In one aspect, the invention provides a method of making a fiber-reinforced composite material part, ~~blank from at least one porous fiber structure,~~ which method comprises:

providing at least one porous fiber structure;
consolidating the porous fiber structure by forming within it a deposit of a refractory material by partially densifying the fiber structure so as to bond together the fibers of the fiber structure by the deposit to enable the fiber structure to be handled without being deformed, ~~while leaving the pore volume of the porous fiber structure being reduced by no more than 40% of the initial value by the partial densification~~ so as to leave empty the major fraction of the initial pore volume of the fiber structure; ~~and subsequently implanting rigid pins through the consolidating consolidated fibrous porous structure, whereby a reinforced consolidated fiber blank is obtained; and obtaining the composite material part by further densifying the fiber blank.~~

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Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 7-19, as follows:

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a fiber-reinforced composite material part, ~~blank by bonding together porous fiber structures so as to obtain a blank of desired shape,~~ which method comprises:

providing a plurality of porous fiber structures;
consolidating each porous fiber structure by forming within it a deposit of a refractory material by partially densifying the fiber structure so as to bond together the fibers of the fiber structure by the deposit to enable the fiber structure to be handled without being deformed, ~~while leaving the pore volume of the porous fiber structure being reduced by no more than 40% of the initial value by the partial densification so as to leave~~ empty the major fraction of the initial pore volume of the fiber structure; putting the consolidated porous fiber structures together; ~~and connecting them the consolidated porous fiber structures~~ together by implanting pins of rigid material through the adjoining consolidated porous fiber structures, whereby a fiber blank is obtained; and obtaining the composite material part by further densifying the fiber blank.

Please amend the paragraph on page 6, lines 14-18, as follows:

Advantageously, the or each fiber structure is consolidated ~~by reducing its pore volume by no more than 40% of its initial value, and in particular by reducing its pore volume by a quantity~~ lying in the range 8% to 40% of its initial value.

Please delete the paragraph on page 7, lines 13-18.

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Please amend the paragraph on page 11, lines 6-17, as follows:

Implantation is advantageously performed by a process of the type described in document WO 97/06948. As shown in Figure 1, pins 10 for implanting are initially inserted in a block 12 of compressible material, e.g. a foam or an elastomer. The pins extend between two opposite faces 12a and 12b of the block 12. One of the faces 12a of the block is brought into contact with a zone of the surface ~~20~~ 20a of the consolidated fiber structure 20 that is to be reinforced. A transducer 14 connected to an ultrasound generator (not shown) is pressed against the other face 12b of the block 12 so as to transfer the pins through the consolidated fiber structure by applying ultrasound energy and compression to the block 12.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, lines 24-26, as follows:

After the pins have been implanted, the consolidated fiber structure ~~can constitute~~ constitutes a blank for manufacturing a composite material part.